FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

S.TURDAY, Feb. 18-6 P. M. The speculative feeling was tame and the market heav, at the first session of the stock board, and, as compare with the closing prices at yesterday's second board, Ergan Southern 36, Northwestern 36, Rock Island 46, Fort Wayne 1, Cumierland 1. Cieveland and Patesburg was

Government securities were firm. Five-twenti s of the old same sold at 111%, and of the new at 110%; tenforties were steady at 102%.
At the open board at one o'clock Fr'e advanced 14,

Reading 1, Michigan Southern 14, Illinois Contral 14, Cleveland and Putsburg 14, Rock Island 14, Fort Wayne Later on the street prices were lower.

In the gold room the fluctuations were light, although

the market was somewhat perturbed by contradictory The amendments of Mr. Stevens to the Internal Revenue bill, which came up for discussion in the House of Representatives to-day, fa led to affect the market, as no one interested had any faith in the possibility of such absurd cruditles becoming law. These provided that ail gold brokers and bull on dealers should pay a license tax of one thousand dollars, and ten per cent upon the value of all gold bought or sold by them, and return of such es and sales to be made to the district assessor within twenty-four hours from the time of their taking place; in default of which such brokers or dealers would be considered guilty of a miscemeanor and fixed five hundred dollars for each offense. The House rejected

supply and demand by a large majority.

The fluctuations of the premium were limited to 1%, 10:30 A. M. 204 2:30 P. M. 205 ½
11:35 A. M. 204 3:30 P. M. 204 ½
12:30 P. M. 204 ¼
1:35 P. M. 205 ½
1:35 P. M. 205 ½

There was a spec e shipment of \$59,006 by the sleamer City of London, which, added to \$40,546 taken by the erro Cartle for Havana, makes a total for the week of only \$100.852

prevent its members from transacting bus ness at the kvening Exchange, but we doubt its exerting any very influence in checking the nightly orgics, if we may so term them, of the speculators who how the knee to the demon of ; old. Nevertheless the demoralizing influences of a life of speculation would be lessened, and it would be a real gain to those concerned if, by common consent, the even ug stock and gold exchange was abolished. It originated in a fever of excit ment, and has no precedent in the history of any other city or time.

The rejection by the House of Representatives to-day, by a vote of sixty-two against seventy-five, of the proposed tax on sales, which was yesterday agreed to in the Commutee of the Whole, is an instance of that ignorance and perversity which have distinguished tho majority to Con, ress from the beginning of the war in their financial tegislation. They have been throughout timid of the right and richless of the wrong, and they claim for their shining I glats such men as Mr. Morrill and Mr. Thaideus Stevens, whose incongruous mistakes and crude experiments have entitled them to a place among the shallow theorists of the last cen-The tax on sales was a measure which, if adopted, would have contributed largely to the increase of the internal revenue, without pressing unduly upon any section of the community, and although arguments be advanced against it, founded upon the experience of its operation in other countries, the amount of the tax and the manner of collection made it so onerous there that the alcanda of Spata and Naples can hardly be compared with the proposed measure just defeated to tax sales one half per cent-only, and that tax pays ble month-ly. All taxation is more or less burdensome upon the community, and are more obnoxious than the income tax, and yet the men who voted for the latter shrink n a tax on sales, notwithstanding its having been recommended by the New York Chamber of Commerce, the Philad lphia Board of Trade and the almost unan mous voice of the commercial community. Heavy taxa tion we must have, however, and in a more onerous form than a tax of one-half per cent on sales.

The supply of toenable funds has been increasing in

proportion to the demand during the week, notwithstand the absorption of capital by the seven-thirty lean, and there is tomporarily a plethora of money in the mar ket. The common rate for call loans is six por cent, but exceptional transactions on governments have been made at five. Commercial paper of the best grade is in limited

supply and rates at 7% a 10 per cent.

There is no change of note in the general stagnation which prevails in the foreign exchange market. Quotations have a downward tendency, there being neither a speculative nor real demond to sustain them. Bankers! terling, at sixty days, has been sold as low as 107% a 108%; and at three days 108% a 109%. Merchants bills have been effered at 107 a 1/4.

The Board of Brokers will adjourn from Tuesday to Thursday, in recognition of Washington's birthday.

The subscriptions to the seven-thirty loan continued active. The amounts ordered by Jay Cooke's agents in this city to-day were:-First National Bank \$400,000. making for the week \$2,500,000; Fisk & Hatch \$600,000, making for the week \$4,000,000; Livermore, Clews & Co.

| Receipts for curtoms | 2,871,199 | Total receipts | 7,515,503 | Fayments | 7,515,503 | Balan e | 26,003,276 | Subscriptions to government losa | 1,119,400 | The bals for \$157,000 worth of County Court House | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,0 Stock of 1889 and 1800 were op ned to day, at the Comptroller's office. The following is an account of the

offers:-		
Bidde a.	Am't Bid.	Pre
Benjamin H. Field		100
Howard Wiley	4.000	100
D. Johnson	2,000	Tol.
Whitehouse, Morrison & Co.	2,000	100.
Adolphus C. Schaffer & Co	4,500	101
Adolphus C. Schaffar & co.	5,000	102
Margaret Smith	1,000	100.
R P	5,000	100
R. P	5,000	101
Wm. McMurray	1,200	101
Charles G. Thurman	1,000	102
George C. Wilmording	10,000	102
	\$46,000	
Total		

The following sales of stocks and bonds were m yesterday by Adrian H. Muller, P. R. Wilkins & Co. :-\$335 Union Mutuai Ins. Co. scrip—\$75 of 1850, \$335 Union Mutuai Ins. Co. scrip—\$75 of 1850,
\$330 New York Methal Ins. Co. scrip of 1859.
\$35 Orient Stotnal Ins. Co. scrip of 1859.
\$45 Orient Stotnal Ins. Co. scrip of 1859.
\$45 Orient Stotnal Ins. Co. scrip of 1859.
\$45 T000 United States 6's, 1881, int. Jan. and July. 111
\$3,600 Clov. & Pittaburg 4th in. 6 per cent bonds,
due 1852, int. Jan. and July, \$1,600 cach.
\$45 Orient Stotnal Ins. Co. scrip of 1859.
\$41 000 State & scourt bond.
\$45 Orient States & Stotnal Ins. Co. Scrip of 1854.
\$45 Tradesmen's Bank, \$40 cach.
\$45 Tradesmen's Fire Insurance Co. \$25 cach.
\$45 Tradesmen's Bank, \$40 cach.
\$45 Tradesmen's Bank, \$40 cach.
\$45 Merchants' Bank,

The Boston imports for the week ending February 16 week in 1864. The exports, including specie, were \$400,301, prairet \$325,105 in 1864.

In Boston at the close of business February 11, was \$2,455,614 02, showing a decrease of \$704,726 01, as

The East River Insurance Company has convolidated with the Niasara Fire Insurance Company, under the name of the latter which has now a cash capital of one

million of dollars. Massachusetts are in circulation. The vignette of the counterfoit is a train of cars in upper centra; male pic-

fers from the genuine. There are also counterfeit tens on the Mechanics' Eank of New Haven. They are a for simile of the genuine bill, but are poorly engraved. The following is a comparative statement of the con-dition of the Philadelphia banks on Monday of this

week and on the previous Monday:

		F20. 3.	Frn, 13.
Lonna		50,209,473	49,611,683
5000 e		1,702,776	1,629,957
U. S. legal tes	deferre	14,100,352	14 296 647
D posits		38,496,387	87, 340, 531
Circulation		4,593,178	4,660,007
			ondition of the
			uary, compared

with the returns made on the 1st of January :-

Circulation \$2,95,15
United States securities 1,071,500
Wasconsis State bonds 1,314,500
Bonds of other states 24,780
U. S. Treasury notes 125,227
Spicle 8,535

The retirming is a compensary report of the exempted &

of the Housestonic Railroad during the years 1:03 and

1864. 428,517 150,393 24, 100

A case was tried at the last term of the Supreme Court

of Missouri, held at St. Lents, in which the phinting cought to recover on a promissory note made payable, by express stipulation, in gold, and for the disclarge of which the defendant tentered greenbacks. The judges decided against the plaintiff, stating that as the case was in the hands of the law, and must be tested by the law, he must apply the acts of Congress to it, which recognized no difference in the value of a gold dollar and iteration to the same denomination it was further held that money, as the common standard by which values are ascertained, has no marketable value, but possesses such standard value as the law has assigned to it; and that, in legal contemplation, gold coin and Treasury notes being made equal as a legal tender in payment of debts by act of Congress, no injury results if payment be made or offered in one medium

The receipts of gold from California this year co

SALES BELLEVINGE	1865.
	,148,850
	388,519 511,088
	650.413
Fob. 14	264,329
	968,192
	107,080
nati Railroad earne	
	Fob. 14

excess of the receipts for the same time in 1804. The comparative carnings of the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Radroad during the month of January were

POTT A NAME AND DESCRIPTION	393,66
Stock F	Crehange.
Sate	BDAY, Feb. 18-10:30 A. M.
\$5000 US 6's, 31, reg 111 5	400 shaNY CenRR 830 112
55000 U S 6's, \$1.com 11134 5000 U S 6's, 5-20, reg 1'0 %	300 do 1123
5000 US6'8,5-20, reg 1:04	300 do 112
60000 U S 6's,5 20 con 1213;	600 do 1125
44000 dol.mmv is 110%	100 do 112%
10000 do.h30 n is 110%	100 Erie RR 74%
2.000 do new 188 110%	700 do 743
20000 US5's,10-40,con 102%	100 do #10 74
5000 00 1023	
1000 US5's, '75 cod. e 103	100 dobu0 74%
10060 Tr n, 73 10, A&O 116	1000 do 74
5000 Masouri 6 s 66%	
1000 do	200 Mariposa Mg Co., 1132
2000 Mo6's, Pa I R is 72	400 do 12
2600 Tenn 6'n, '00 66%	
10000 Ohio & Miss cer 26%	200 Reading RR 112
10000 do 26%	
2000 do 26%	200 do 111%
6000 NY Central 6's 103%	200 do 111%
1000 MichC nt8's,n1 117	200 da 1125
1600 HaSallstlabds. 93	200 M So & N I RR 64%
25000 Americangold, c 204 V	
20 shs bk of Com 110	100 do 65%
25 Shock Leath Bk. 108	100 Ill Con RR s10 118%
12 Cen Nat Bank 105	100 de 119 200 Cieve & Pitts RR 823
10 Metrepolitan Bk. 120	
160 Del & Hud Canul 170	400 Chic & N W RR. 843
150 do 172	100 do 34%
100 CumCont pref. 10 56	200 Chic & N W pret. 64)
100 doba0 563	
500 do 563 200 do 56	40 Chic & R I RR., 96
100 Quick Mg Co b30 85	100 do 95%
300 Smith&Parmoold 634	
100 Central Coni to 46%	100 do 9534
100 Penn Ceal Co 185	100 Chie & Alton RR 92
400 N Y Central RE. 1121	
100 do 1123	100 H& St Joseph RR 30
100 do810 112 kg	200 Mil & Pra duC RR 47
100 do 11234	

The Prussian Extradition Case. Betore United States Commiss oper White.

Far. 16 .- In the Matter of the Application of the Pru cian Government for the Extradition of Ferdinand Voigt-man, alias Helle.—The testimony for the defines was opened to-day. The purport of it was to show that the scensed is "Frederick Voigtman," and not Ferdinand.

Segmentand Wallenburg -- Knew the prisoner as Prederick Volgtman in Prussia; he was a paymester in the Prussian army; he had no other o cupation; do not know if he was married; he had a brother; I know him; I do not know the brother's name.

Q. Where was he employed?

Mr. Lapaugh objected. Overruled, and exception

Witness confinued-The prisoner's brother was a employe of the Berlin and Hamburg Railway Company; I saw him often, but not so much as the accused; I am certain that the prisoner is not the man that was, employed in the railroad company; there is a recemblance between them, but they could easily be distinguished; the brother is a little smaller than the accused, and wor his hair according to the military fashion; the brother wore a moustache, and this man wore side whiskers; this one always were spectacles; the other did not,

this one always were spectucles; the other did not.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lapaugh—Am twenty-five years of age; served one year in the Prussian army as a volunteer; saw the prisoner in January, 1864; have been travelling for a boune in Frussia; saw the prisoner from 1800 to 1861; I have never been in the office of the Berlin and Hamburg Railway Company; the prisoner introduced his brother to rue as an employe of the railway company; never heard the first mane of the brother; dent know by what mane the prisoner addressed his brother. Q. Did you, during the years of your acquaintance whe the prisoner's brother, hear his first name?

A. I do not recollest; I got my regular disharge from the Pression army; I did not bring it with me; I am agent here for several houses; I do business for Netsor & Co., No. 8 College place; I buy from Alexander barous, in the Bowery; I restude at the Bast Broodway up to Friday last; have resided since then in Landow strest jai; met the prisoner there; my residence there is not voluntary; I do not know for what I have been arreated; I am not a bounty jumper; I was arreated with another man; a carpet bag was deposited with the other man, and we were both arreated for fraudiently disposing of it; never heard of any forgeness on the berlin and Hamburg Railway Company, but heard that the prisoner and his hordier had abaconted Q.—Did you bear that the accused absected has no other name than Frederick; I never heart of his going by the name Helle; saver saw him since January, 1834, until I saw him in jult, he never was called Adolph; never naw him is the army, but I know he was a prymaster in the cruy; saw him with a bice uniform and the swood of an offer; his rank was account leutenant; the trusting Greenment keep a list of all the officers in the army; I have seen the prisoner's wife; I do not know that I have been arreased for obactuing eight hundred dear fraudu. Ally:

Q. Whose chotograph is that? A. That is the hrother's; I cano to to its country by the steamer Heels in September and he

man.
After some further testimony the case was adjourned all this morning at eleven A. R.
The Prostan Consul General and the Prostan Consul of Chicago were in court watching the proceedings.
Fig. 11.—The was was resumed this morning. Evidence was given to establish the identity of the accused. One with the dependence of the country bending the process of the country before the provided corresponded with his wife, and knew that accused corresponded with her from this country before the private here from Prosta; he used to address her as Agnes Volgiman.

archised corresponded with ner trust and the private here from Prussia; he used to address her as Agnes Volgianan.

E. Guiepp, contract for the accused was again called to the stand and questioned with reference to a contract alleged to have been drawn up by him for defendant. Compact reduced to answer in right of his privitee as advocate. This point was argued without result, and the Cours adjourned.

The Rebel Contracts in England, TO THE EDITOR OF THE BERALD. Some few works since a statement appeared in your paper that Meens Alex Colle & Ca., of Manchester, had made a contract with the rebel government to fur-nish two hundred and fifty thousand Enfield rides, and to receive in payment the same number of bales of cotton. I have received a letter from A Collie & Co. in which they state that there was not a word of truth in the report. Some time ago they did some business with the robel government, but it was confined entiely to boots, blankets and clothing. At the present time they are entirely out of the business.

As an act of justice to Mewers, Collie & Co. you will oblige by inserting the areas to your paper.

J. F. and a see see. In the to your paper.

MEXICO.

CONDITION OF THE NEW EMPIRE.

The War in the State of Oajaca.

PORFIRIO DIAZ STANDING AT EAY.

Internal Improvements in the Country.

EXTENSION OF POPULAR ELUCATION.

THE CLEEGY AND THE CHURCH PARTY.

Foreign Relations of Maximilian's Government.

How It Stands in Reference to the United States,

&c.,

Criv or Maxico, Jan. 27, 1965. and Sindion-Relative Politica of the The War in Oajaoa and Sindioa—Rilat ve Poillin of the Imperialities and Liberals—Pility of Maximilian as to the Investment of Fireign Capital—Railroad, Telegraph, Gas and Steamskip Contracts—En our agreement of European Immigration—Discoveries of Petroleus in Mexico—American Enterprise and Capital about to Dev lop the New Oil Dorod:—Interesting Details as to the Englishment of the Church Property—Arrival of the Pipe's Nuncio and Resolution of the Emp-ror to Estallish Religious Therston—The French Minister at the Imp vial ort-Position of he Unit d States Legation at hexic -Importance of the Respirition of the Empire by the In ted States—Formal Application to be Made by the Masican Government—Pierre Soule and ex-Senator Guin Spoken of as Ambassadors to Washington—Maximitian and the Monroe Doctrine, &c., &c.

Since my last no important changes have taken place the military and political condition of Mexico. The slege of Onjaca continues, and may be considered as the only real theatre of war, the military operations in other ris of the empire being confined to a guerilla wariare, of which the results on either side are not of particular oment. At Oajaca the liberal party, by the latest accounts received at the War Department, had something like six thousand men, the largest army collected anywhere in the country by the Juarists. These are under the immediate command of Porfirio Dias, a chieftain who thus far seems to have given the imperial forces their hands full. Within a few weeks General Bazaine, Commander in-Chief of the French army in Mexico, has taken command in person, and is besidging the liberals, who are shut up within the city and defend themselves with desperation and bravery. This siege may be regarded as the turning point of the war, and there the French are directing their most vigorous efforts. Troops are daily marching from this vicinity to Oajaca, whence the news is r ceived with the greatest engerness. Very few have any doubts as to the result, believing that the

capture of the place is but a question of time.

In other portions of Mexico the liberals are maintaining a persistent but feeble resistance, having only a few hunbeing rather bands of marauders and robbers than regu-larly organized forces. Junez, with no considerable force, is in Sonora, and is determined to keep his standard up in that distant region while a dozon adherents will re-

The French, however, have lately met with a signal dofeat, though on a small scale, at San Pedro, near. Culincan, in the State of Sinalea. It seems a small Franco-Mexican force had left Mazatlan with the intention of landing at Altata and occupying Culincan before the arrival of the liberal General Patoni, who was march-ing upon that point after having defeated and captured La Voga, who was publicly shot for his descriton to the French. The imperial forces consisted of forty marines from the French steam frigate Le Lucifer, sixty-five tirgillenes Algirient, and two hundred Mexicans, who were hashly collected in the vicinity. Having landed at Aliata, the Captain of the war steamer took command ensued, in which the imperial forces were completely routed. These are the outlines of the news, as published by the French papers in this city, and all accounts agree in describing a total defeat of the French and their Mexican allies, the latter forces, it is said, having fied at the first fire of the Juarists, who largely outnumbered the imperialists. It is certain that Captain Tevart, four officers and thirty soldiers wounded, and all the rest taken prisoners. The captives were taken to Cullacan, where they were well treated by Rosales Colonel Garnier, however, at the last accounts, was marching upon the tewn with a considerable French force, and it was thought would speedily recapture the

place and turn the tide of affairs. This engagement, though unimportant as regards the number of the contending parties, has weight when it is considered that the government has thus far been able only to send small detachments to the north-ward, owing to the large extent of ferritory over which the war has been conducted. A sufficient force is now on the way to effectually put down resistance for the present in that quarter. A giance at the map of Mexico will show that the imperial government is firmly established in the most important sections of the country. Nearly all the populous cities and towns have scknowledged the rule of Maximilian, and it cannot be long before the European forces will have possession of the entire country. Their progress is slow, but sure. Many reverses have been experienced, and some of the best officers in the French army have been killed; but there can be but little doubt as to the result.

The main point is to reduce the forces in Oajaca. which just now occapies the attention of the government beyond all other localities. The principal States are conier the imperial control, including Vers Orus, Querctare, Guanajuato, Mexico, parts of Michoscan, the greater portion of Durango and of Sinalos, the whole of Nuevo Leon and Yucatan, and the majority of Coahuila. The chief cities, such as the greater portion of Durango and of Sinalos, the whole of Noevo Leon and Yucatan, and the majority of Conduita. The chief cities, such as Leon, Mexico, Guadalajam, Queretaro, Guanajuato, San Lrita Potont, Zacasecaa, Medida, Morella, Colima, Ozizaho, Monterey, Foobla, Durango, San Bias, Salitio and Vera Crus, are heid in undepeted possecsion by the Maximilian government. The State of Guerrero is still occupied by the thereis, and that will be the seeme of the pert compalgn. Bezaine has about ten thousand of his best troops at Oslava, and from that poins he will march serious the low lands of Fuebin to encounter Alvaren, who still occupies that state, but with so small a force that the approach of a large army of Fronth will oblige him to retreat to the northward. At this moment the or. President Juarez, is little better than a fugitire in the far north, while his party holds no important place in Bezico, excepting Ospace. Now and then some guerilla chieftain, a ded by the Church influence, startles his immediate vicinity with one of the old fashioned Mexima pronounced logal and the waterion of \$200 000 per north, while his party holds no important place in Bezico, and are asking for privileges for various enterprises. An English company have hearty concluded a contract for building a railroad from Nexico to Mazimilian must be considered as virtually established.

MYICH the assurance of a durable government numerous representatives of foreign capital have arrived, and are asking for privileges for various enterprises. An English company have hearty concluded a contract for building a railroad from Nexico to Mazimilan, can the Facilic coast, the reute to Acapulco having been, and the particle coast, the reute to Acapulco having been, and the particle coast, the reute to Acapulco having been, and the particle coast, the reute to Acapulco having been, and the railroad from britishing a railroad from Nexico to Mazimilan, can the Facilic coast, the reute to Acapulco having been received by their Majastite with more

to Mazatlan has been commonced, working westward and northward from Mexico, and quantities of material are now on the way from Europe to the Pacific seast, where now on the way from Europe to the Pacific coast, where the work will be prosecuted with vigor. Thus the two oceans are, within a reasonable time, to be connected by railroad, passing through the most fertile and populous sections of the empire, and the English engineers are already contrasting these energetic movements with the slow progress made towards or empleting the Pacific Railroad of the United States. One has only to glance at the map to see that the Mexican road might become the long sought 'highway of nations.' being much more advantageously elituated relatively to China and the East Indies than the route through the United States. The difficulties in its construction will be comparatively few, as the country to be traversed is topographically favorable to the enterprise. When this road is commenced, Mazalian must assume a maritime importance second only to that of San Francisco. These enterprises are bound to be completed within the preferribed time under very heavy penalties. They are in the hands of the most celebrated capitalists of Europe—among, them the Barfings—who understand the advantages to be derived, and have at their command unlimited resources.

No one knows better than Maximilian the vital prece-

against Mexico, as must inevitably be the case with all countries which import from every market in the world, but yield anothing in return—if we except the precious metals, which the English have been smuggling on the Pacific coast, by means of their naval ships, for the last forty years.

PROFABILITIES AS TO THE SUTGES OF EXISTO.

The future of Mexico, under a stable government, a almost incidentable. When pean, is conce established, even in the most diseased regions, the energy which has been discosed the paths of reolitable industry; and, with this object in view every effort is now being made to the outries immigration from Edvope, and eyas from the United States. Celonization properties are everywhere on foot on the correct principle that the country requires an infusion of new blood into the spathetic race whose energies have become marrly exhausted in their half contrary of internecine strife. The government particularly enfourages those who come as permanent residentity; and during this year probably several totasand family afrom France and Edvisum will have located in the finest productive sections of the empire. A grant has been made to am Europ-un association for the colobization of the healthiest and most fertile portion of Tuctum. This is to be a cotton and tobacco raising colony, under the aspecial protection of the government. Some idea may be formed of the increase of colons group and the article—that when the contrary the reveal the spatial protection of the government. Some idea may be formed of the increase of colons group and the surfacely located three, and the best cotton lands are already located three, and the best cotton lands are already located three, and the best cotton lands are already located three, and the best cotton lands are already located three, and the best cotton lands are already located three, and the best cotton lands are already being surrous to the surface of the property of individuals being arranged by marriage and the company to the most northern surface. The land

tains some two busified and thirty thousand inhabitants within a space nowher; more than two mies across in any direction, the ample width and perfect level of the streets, which are at all hours crowded with pedestrians, the inert habits of the people, never disposed to walk when a chance offers to ride, and the extremely liberal terms of the grant, which exempts the materials imported for the read from duties and taxes of all kinds, beside allowing twenty-one months for the completion of the first three miles, without fixing any limits for the completion of the entire work—these advantages are considered, as they well may be, as constituting one of the most valuable continues over conceded to individuals by any government. Projects are also on foot for lines of telegraphs, and for street cars and lighting the city of Puebla with ras. Gaudalairs, Leon, Geanjusto and Quaretage are each in some way to experience the benefit of foreign enterprise.

order and perfect security of property are new guaranteed to all. Under the new regime, Maxico has everything to expect in the way of prospecty. Her government, supported as it undoubtly is at this time by the wast majority of the people, are surfues to maintain peaceful relations with the whole world, and to be left free for the experiment of bringing the country into a respectable position among nations. To effect this Maximilian effects all reasonable encouragement for the investment of foreign, and especially American, capital, rightly judging that, as the pocket is commonly the most sensitive part of individuals and communities, there can be no surer medium for maintaining peace between the United States and the new empire than by making it for the interest of American capitalists to preserve it.

Every act of the Emperor thus far has been characterized by a sincere desire for the best interests of Mexico and an intelligent appreciation of the requirements of the hour. Called to the supreme power estensibly by the church party and the aristocratic families, who were then all powerful, he soon saw that a continuance of the Church influence under his auspices would be but to renew the old story of anarchy and confusion. For nearly three hundred years the Church in Mexico has wielded a power based upon the superstitions of the leporant races descended from the original inhabitants. The enormous wealth accumulated under various special privileges, and extending back to the Spanish conquest, enabled the clergy to exercise an almost illimitable power in the State, The income of the Church exceeded three that of the national revenue, and was continually used to overthrow every administration whose acts might not conform to its demands. The priests were not amenable to the laws of the Blate, and the ecclesinatical courts seidom if ever punished even the most outrageous site—on the ground

secret ramifications undermined every department of government.

It was the liberal party which first had the courage to disp ite this mi-chievous asc undancy, and the late President Juarez, striking boldly at the root of the public evil, confiscated the entire Church property throughout the republic, and, having disposed of it at p-bile sale, began to apply the proceeds te worthy public purposes. Monks and friars, those relies of a barbarous are, were summarily expelled the country, and the convents, which, is the course of centuries, had multiplied to such an extent as to occupy the most valuable portions of the city, were torn down and bisected by streets which were surveyed and out through them in all directions. The foundation of the national evil having been thus removed, other reforms, scarcely less needed, were consummated, and at last Mexico seemed to have failen into the right path towards true prosperity and delivery from the lincubus which had so long overshadowed her prosperity.

moved, other reforms, scarcely less needed, were consummated, and at last Mexico seemed to have fallen into the right path towards true prosperity and delivery from the Incubus which had so long overshadowed her prosperity.

At this point the clergy and the church party, finding all their efforts fruitless to stay the advancing strides of reform, determined by a bold stroke to restors their ascendancy by inviting the intervention of some strong Catholic European Power. The remarkable events which, during the last four years, have quickly succeeded each other, and have ended in the establishment of Maximilian on the imperial throne of Mexico, are prient to the world. The acceptance by the Grand Duke of Austria of this charge was hailed by the church party as the culmination of all their desires, the general idea being that, as both he and the Empress were d vout Catholics, the first step would be towards a restoration of the confiscated property. Jet before his departure for Mexico, Maximilian visited Rome, where all ecclesiastical questions were a bmitted to the Pope, who was to take them under consideration, and in due time sand his Nuncio to Mexico with full instructions. The Duke, having formally and forsver renounced all right for himself and descendants, as successor to the Austrian throne, departed for the scene of his new enterprise.

On his arrival he found that neither he nor any other European diplomaist had fully comprehended the true state of affinism Mexico, and having satisfied himself that the mischievous influence of the Church had been at the bottoms of all the political throbles which had so long desolated the country, he promptly threw the Church and its party aside, and commenced to work act for himself and his political discussion. The country was aircady in possession of the French, save in some far distant localities, and he at once addressed himself to the task he had assumed with all the activity and intelligence of his charces of State, to the great disgust of their political opponents

of illustrious descent for his ancestors a contury an-half ago ruled Mexico), liberal to the extreme in all relations, biameless in his social habits, commanding person, dignified yet affable in manners, and in ear atmost to a degree of enthurism in the work he undertaken, he is, without doubt, the right man in

simust to a be it, which doubt, the right man in the right place. All things considered, no person among the royal families of Europe could have been found combining in himself so many quelliacations for the Mexican throne.

His recent prompt action relative to the great question of church property, and the important issues depending upon it, illustrate the prominers of the man in deeding the mest vial points. From the time of his arrival he had patiently awaited the decision of the Pope, and this during a period when every consideration was uringle him to bring matters to a speedy conclusion; for the interests at stake, extending throughout the empre and hanging cultroly upon this all absorbing point, were so vast that until the question of confiscation was disposed of the whole monetary system rested in uncertainty and confusion. The Pope's Nuncio having arrived, after seven months of expectation, without the slightest sign of adecision, the Empirer at once proclaimed his intention of legalizing the confiscations and confirming the sale of church property, amounting in the aggregate to hundreds of millions of dollars. The decree, however, data, will have a hearing of far great principle of religious toleration, which hence forth is the bricerporated into the genius of the empire. Although Cathelians is the recognized national relig on, every creed and sort may henceforward establish itself as freely and openly as in the United States or England.

MATISHIAN's assetter or the screen in the screen, to persistent in its engrit, and as alreaching in its talents, abilities, moral influence and concentrated wells, that the Christian world cannot regard with indifference the man who, right or wrong, has overthrown so gigantic and complicated a mass of machinery. But this lie only a preliminary step. Every attribute of special power is to b taken away, and the reformation carried to the extent of depriving the Church, as an institution, of even the right to hold property. The clergy are totally bereaf of the power, as

some move on the part of the United States are the saverto policy on the part of the United States are the savertment. In this question he is reported to be stater in-law, the King of Belgium—undoubtedly the two wisest monarcha living. From present appearance there is reason to believe that an attempt at obtaining e rocognition will be made during the sitting of the present Congress. More than one application has been made within a few weeks at the Department of Foreign Relations for positions on the Legation to the United States, and all sorts of rumors are on foot as to who is to be the Armbassidor. Dr Gwin, Jormerly United States, and all sorts of rumors are on foot as to who is to be the Armbassidor. Dr Gwin, Jormerly United States Senate from California, has been spoken of in commettion with the mission; but aside from the fact that he would decline the poetion if offered to him, the government is too sincerely destrous, to carablesh friendly relations with the United States to risk a failure of racegnition by appointing a person so obnoxious to the North. Some of the accessionists in Mexico are urging the selection of Pierre Soule for the same portion; and no doubt that gentleman, with his usual alsority for office, would accept the appointment—the only officulty in the way being that his chances of getting is are no better than those of Gwin. Mr. sould has recently left for Havana, and will shortly return with members of his family who were sent away some time since from New Orleans. He is the reputed author of some of his recently left for Havana, and will shortly return with members of his family who were sent away some time since from New Orleans. This is not only known as a fact by all palace attracks, but the necessity of it is serviced in the acceptance of the recently entitle for the problem of the general part of the problem of the general part of the form of the problem of the

WILMINGTON.

Reconnoissance of the Rebel Line Defending the Approaches to Wilmington.

Our Forces Intrench the Posttions Gained.

The Movement to be Resumed at an Early Date.

Callant Conduct of a Detachment of the Third New Hampshire,

de.,

Mr. Thomas M. Cook's Despatch. FORT FISHER, N. C., Feb. 11, 1968. THE MOVEMENT AGAINST WILVINGTON.

Wilmington, designed primarily as a general reconnols sance, to be converted into a real advance if circum stances should prove favorable. The morning was cle and basetiful, promising all that could be desred.

The plan of the movement gave General ibbott's bri gade the extreme right of the line, on the coan beech He was supported by a brigade of Paine's division, commanded by Colonel Ames. General Ames' division moved up the rebel military rad, in the centre of the peninsula, holding his troops en mass, though they were subsequently brought into action of the right. General Paine's colored troops advanced up on the left, keeping the east bank of the river. A detachment of Admiral Porter's gunbeats overed the right of the line, and kept the woods thoroughly shelled is

frent of us.

The movement commenced at eight s'clock precisely. The rebel picket line was found closs in front of our own, and their men, being in ride pits, made a spirited resistance for a short time. the formation of a strong skignish line they were soon dislodged and driven in upon their mein works. Our lines then advanced caulously through the tangled underbrush of dwarf pines and live oak, and pressed up close to the main line of rebel works.

THE RUBEL WORLS. These works were found to be very perfect and formidable, extending from Masonboro Sound across to Sugar Losf, with an advanced line on their right, joining the main work near the centre of the peninsula, forming a fortified encampment. On gaining this information, and finding the rebels present in strong force at all points, it was decired been to make no assult at present. Intrenching tools were therefore, ordered up, and in an incredible chert time we had thrown up a line of works nearly as strong as there of the rebels; sufficiently strong at least, to insure us the permanent occupation of the advance we had gained, which was about two niles.

The movement was ordered by General Schofield, and directed by that offer in person, though note but Terry's troops participted. General Terry himself was so physically deabled from a troubless as allment, which has laid line up for several days, as to be unable to sit upon his horse. He was, however, present with his troops, a captured buggy furnishing him means of locomotion where reads could be found, and going on foot eleswiners.

Generals Faine and Anses were also with their respective divisions, and prepared, had it been directed, to engage the enemy in his fortised positions, with the same ardor and gainstry it by displayed at the storming of Fort Flaher.

spective divisions, and prepared, had it been directed, to engage the enemy in hy fortised positions, with the same ardor and galaxiry itsy displayed at the storming of Fort Flaber.

Gallaviar of a prescription of the Third New Rayrenna General Abbott distinguished himself with a fragment of his command, by the capture of a body of prisoners exceeding in numbers the captors. A detachment of the Third New Ramphire, of Abbotts brigade, commanded by Capt. L. C. Edgerly, numbering Ray men, charged upon a detached work of the robels, took possession of it, shot the robel commander, and secured his command—flip four men. Capt. Edgerly's loss was but two men—one killed and four wounded.

Our total losses during the day have been less than a dozen killed, and about fifty wounded. Capt. Ecott, of the Seventy-seventh Fearsylvania, member of the staff of Pennypucher's brigade, was killed by a robel sharp shooter on the right. He was a gallant and useful officer, as well as a genial companion and a gentlemen. His dead casts a gloom ever the command to which he was as tached.

Ont Herbert, of the Thirtisth colored, and Lieutenan Flaher, of the same, were among the wounded, the reserverly.

During the action the rebels moved a small gunboal down from Wilmington to a position just above they works, and amuses thereselves by pitching a few heavy shells at us, which, however, foll for short.

Commander Stone, moved up the river simultaneously with the advance of our troops, and engaged Fort Anderson, on the ether bank of the siream. She took a position within a nule siream of the fort, and treased them to some more excellent entirely practice throughout the day, One or two doubse enders also entered the lists, but a such long range the their ammunition was nearly all wested. The fort exponded to the l'outauk with her Whitworth guns, inquently heave cantured to-day in all about seventy flee